

our art has degenerated in an extraordinary manner. At the same time I think we have begun to emerge from the age of darkness, and let us hope that the greater our application, the stronger will be the new light, which is already dawning upon architecture and architectural science. And for this new light I must give the antiquary his due share of credit, he having collected a most valuable set of ancient examples, which must have had a great influence upon our art, and which ought to serve us as an extensive field for imagination to work upon; and by recombinations we may yet produce a style peculiar to the nineteenth century, not forgetting that our predecessors, from the scientific knowledge which they possessed, were enabled to give art certain dependence on rules (at least there is the appearance of such being the case), which it will be impossible for us to do if we try a royal road to knowledge.

Although the present, when compared with the past, is encouraging, yet taste in architecture is not sufficiently cultivated to bring with it its corresponding influence upon art. Reflecting upon by-gone ages, when architecture was at its zenith, we find that the church considered it as a most important branch of education, and the art was encouraged in every possible way. Taxes were levied amongst their people for the purpose of increasing the magnificence of their cathedrals and churches: by this means their edifices bore the impress of their power,—a power which was not used from feelings of ostentatious pride, but for the purpose of showing the devotion and reverence with which they looked up to the Almighty. This lavish outlay was far preferable to the close-fisted parsimony of the present times, when committees seem to be trying a series of experiments as to how cheap they can build churches or chapels, which, when done, are sometimes unsafe to sit in.

The present state of public competition is ruinous to the architect, to public taste, and to the progress of pure art. It appears to me to arise from the following causes, viz. :—

Want of architectural taste in those who have to decide the merits of the various designs.

Want of union amongst the profession, and want of good architectural criticism.

Want of taste and knowledge in those who have to decide upon the several merits or demerits of a design is a deficiency so often experienced by men of talent in our profession, that it will be quite unnecessary for me to prove that it does exist: I think it is greatly owing to the neglect with which architecture is treated by the public press; the mass of the people, therefore, have no popular means of improving their minds on this subject.

Want of union amongst the profession is another cause for the indignities which are continually borne by its members. I think that architects as a body ought to be quite strong enough either to pass laws themselves or get them passed by the legislature, which shall protect them from these fearful competition jobs. From the want of good criticism in the public journals, these jobs are often allowed to pass unnoticed, thus leaving the evil to increase in consequence of the jobbers escaping free. One would suppose that with such power as the daily papers possess, it would not be difficult by degrees to promote a knowledge of true architecture amongst the classes who most require it.

Architecture seems to have been entirely neglected; it has not been sufficiently studied as a fine art, an art which should have the same interest for the architect that poetry has for the poet, painting for the artist, and form for the sculptors. The public are hardly acquainted with its unusual advantages as a material art. What I mean is, that I look upon painting, poetry, and sculpture, as imaginative, but our pursuits are realities. For a proof of this we have only to review the buildings of Ancient Greece, where usefulness was combined with a great simplicity of form, and consummate art in the arrangement of the ornamental parts. These works show a refined taste, which has only been equalled by our own countrymen in the wonderful examples of Gothic architecture.

I am inclined to believe that good architectural criticism, or even appreciation of the art, will not increase until more importance is

attached to the profession; and also that no profession will have much importance attached to it unless studied in a systematic form. Upon comparing the present method of education adopted by our profession, I cannot but see that it is entirely inferior to all others. The medical profession is one which it would be impossible for a member to practise unless he had arrived at a certain standard of perfection: unless he attends regularly courses of lectures and examinations on anatomy, he would be incapable of performing the commonest surgical operation. The church and the law are equally strict: a man to become a member of either must go through a certain course of study. To come nearer to our profession I will add the engineer, who must have a thorough knowledge of mathematics and mechanics before he can construct a steam-engine or a railway bridge.

Now let us compare the state of architectural education with these facts. How are its students treated? Where are their colleges? How much are they required to know? I am sorry to say their schools are various and unsystematic, as various, in fact, as are the abilities which are shewn by the practising members of the profession. The schools I allude to are architects' offices, where youths are sent if they happen to show any taste for drawing, their parents unwisely saying, "that boy must be an architect," without reference to other capabilities which are indispensable to a thorough architect. The premium is paid, and the victim perhaps enters a bustling office, is set to lay down paper and to perform a variety of such jobs, which, according to the present practice, it is the duty of the fresh-comer to perform.

It is the system in some offices to confine pupils or assistants to one particular branch of the duties: such as drawing and writing to plans—drawing and colouring perspectives and elevations—or measuring and taking out quantities. If a young student happen to overcome all these impediments, and show evidence of talent and knowledge superior to his fellow pupils, it is seldom that he is assisted or encouraged by his master. This superiority is principally owing to his own observation and study.

These are some of the causes which tend to check the progress of taste and of pure art: while such practices last, the engineer will assume the scientific department of architecture, the builder the practical,—and, as for art, that will be forgotten altogether.

Until the public are certain that architects are educated and scientific men, there will always be a distrust of them, which will act in a detrimental manner to their interests, and to the spread of architectural taste. We cannot wonder at this distrust, when such instances are common as that of an architect giving an estimate to a committee for the erection of a building, which, when properly calculated, amounts to double the money. It is a common excuse among architects that it is impossible to tell what a building will cost until the quantities are taken out, and the builder's estimates given. This is allowing the builder to usurp the office of the architect; and it is certain that its effects upon the pockets of the professional man are very serious. I have heard of numerous cases where a builder has been consulted in preference to an architect, merely because the employer thought the practical man could give him a better idea of the sum to be expended; and this, I am afraid, is the case with many landed proprietors, who, if they were not afraid, would employ professional men.

Another evil, which acts in a prejudicial manner to the interest of the architect, is the uncertainty of the rates of professional remuneration.

ARTHUR ALLOM.

BLIND BUILDERS.—Tenders for Farm Buildings at Mr. Clovers, Kirtling, Cambs; Mr. J. F. Clark, architect.

Frost, Bury St. Edmunds	£1,297	0	0
Reed, Bury St. Edmunds	1,095	0	0
Quinsee and Attack, Cambridge	1,045	0	0
Trevethan, Bury St. Edmunds	1,020	0	0
Andrews, Soham	988	6	6
Erwell, Walden	983	11	0
Westley, Newmarket	980	0	0
David, Isleham	966	16	0
Allen, Balaham	930	0	0
Grainger, Walden	845	0	0

THE HEALTH QUESTION.

IN reply to Mr. Bernal's indignant remonstrance, my Lord Ebrington informs us that we have had cesspools emptied and sewers flushed, and that the commissioners' plan is about completing. Of the former we are unhappily aware—since for eighteen months we have had his lordship's foul gift following, morning, noon, and night, the lunar influences between Barnes and Erith;—we accept with joy the probable correctness of his lordship's second assurance. We have also faith in the public will, that the best plan which modern science and sound sense can devise for the constant cleansing of the metropolitan atmosphere shall be that which the Commissioners of Sewers adopt.

We have been long enough, and in more senses than one, like the lampooned of Martial—

"*Tongilianus habet nasum, scio, non nego, sed jam, Nil præter nasum Tongilianus habet.*"

But eighteen months have given us cause and leisure to inquire both what we are to be ridden of, and what we are to acquire. What is it to be? Are we to be freed for ever of the nauseous emanations of graveyards, of 5 feet thicknesses (*vide St Bride's*) of putrefaction, scantily covered with a little earth—just burial sufficient to frank the departed shade across dismal Styx? Are we to be freed from the foul reek of contractors' yards, slaughter-houses, bone-heaps, manufactories of scientific filth?—from the miasmata of gully-holes and untrapped inlets?—from the abominations of cesspools and uncovered ditches? Are we to be cleansed by the pustular system of Mr. Austin, or the downdraught of Mr. Phillips, by the constant suppuration of sumphs, or the diarrhoea of tunnels? Are we to have sewer within sewer, one carrying off to Plumstead the foul contributions of manufactories and man, the other voiding into the Thames the whole surface water of the London Basin, rendering gully-traps useless, and 3 inches water under our kitchen-floors at Stockwell impossible? Are we to have all dwellings inspected, and found properly inconvenienced, ventilated, and trapped? Are we to have intra-parietal herding confined within mortal limits?

In fine, are we, who work ten or fifteen hours a-day, to be left to look after ourselves, or are those appointed to the work of supervision to see whether it be done or no? "He that is filthy, let him be filthy still," that has been the cry long enough. If, as Sir J. Jervis says, we are to be left to the common law, it may be the cry for ever. Common sense as a prompter, let alone common law as a remedy, is not to be trusted, and unless we are looked after by these men, we must devise some other means of deliverance. I have imagined in such a case that a sanitary league, with moderate funds, employing a public prosecutor to follow up all complaints made by members, might be productive of some effect. Meanwhile, we have THE BUILDER at all events,—whose, with much respect, is

JUVENIS EFFLUVIATUS INFELIX.

MOVING PANORAMA OF THE NILE.

THE moving panoramic picture of the Nile, the preparation of which we first announced, was exhibited to friends on Saturday last, and was opened to the public on Monday. Messrs. Warren, Bonomi, and Fahey, assisted by Messrs. Martin, Corbould, Weigall, and Howse, have conspired to produce an exceedingly interesting and very beautiful work of art. The spectator, starting from Cairo, is made to see, first one bank of the Nile, as far as the second cataract, in Nubia, and then, returning, the other is brought before him.

The subject is full of interest. "Egypt," as the preface to the catalogue states, "was the land visited by Abraham in search of food, when there was a famine in his own country; the land to which Joseph was carried as a slave, and which he governed as prime minister. From Egypt Moses led the Israelites through the waters of the Red Sea. Here Jeremiah wrote his 'Lamentations.' Here Solon, Pythagoras, Plato, and other Greek philosophers, came to study. Here Alexander the Great came as a conqueror; and here the